

James Alexander Hamilton to Andrew Jackson, June 3, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL JAMES A. HAMILTON TO JACKSON.¹

¹ This letter refers to the report of the Ways and Means Committee, of which McDuffie was chairman, a report laid before the House of Representatives on Apr. 13 and opposed to the opinion expressed in Jackson's message of Dec. 8, 1829, that the bank had not given the country a sound currency. Hamilton was called on to write a criticism of the report. This letter shows what progress he was making. Two days later, June 5, he wrote to Jackson as follows: "I inclose herewith the last portion of the criticism, and must confess it is that part with which I am least satisfied. I had hoped to have put my hands upon the arguments of Mr Jefferson and the Atty Genl Mr E Randolph when this question first arose and from them I intended to have stated their views at large but I have been unable to find these papers and have therefore omitted that part of my plan of an argument, rather than delay the paper any longer. I can only add that I wish this offering of my industry and zeal to serve you was more acceptable than it is. Perhaps further reflection and more leisure may enable me to add something further on this subject and particularly the last Branch of it. The time for Closing the mail having arrived before my transcriber has completed his task I send this letter without its companion to say that the letter will be forwarded tomorrow."

New York, June 3, 1830.

Private

My dear Sir. I have just completed the whole subject except that which will treat of the first point made in the Report and upon that I shall be very brief, combating merely some

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of the arguments put forth in the report and refering to those in opposition to the powers which have heretofore been engaged, and then I have done. I fear I have been already too defusive and too caustic. The subject grew upon me as I advanced and my feelings of disapprobation of the author of this flimsy and unfair report became more excited as these characteristics became more apparent. You will, having the whole before you temper and expunge such parts as may require either.

Mr Van Buren informs me by a letter I received to day that you would set out for the Hermitage in the Course of this month. I trust you intend to take New York in your way. If you should not so intend I should like to know when you leave washington in order that If I can find the time I may run away to Washington to pass a single day and night with you: So many events of deep intent have occured since I left you that I feel the strongest desire to commune with you in the unreserved manner I have been heretofore permitted to do.

with my most earnest prayers for your continued health and happiness I remain your sincere friend